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No entry for devotees to Chamundi Hill temple on Ashada Fridays

Mysuru, June 16 (PM&DM)- In a clear decision seeking to end the confusion over allowing devotees for Ashada Friday celebrations at Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill in the backdrop of COVID-19 regulatory measures, District Minister S.T. Somashekar has announced that devotees will not be allowed to have darshan of the deity at the Hill temple on all Ashada Fridays this year.

Speaking to presspersons after holding a meeting with District Officials and people's representatives atop the Hill this morning, Somashekar said that Chamundi temple was re-opened for the devotees along with some regulations on June 8 after it was shut over two-and-a-half months ago due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.

"Today, a decision has been taken not to allow devotees to the Hill temple on Ashada Fridays that fall on June 26, July 3, 10 & 17 and also on the day of Vardhanti (July 13) that comes soon after Ashada, as a crowd control measure to stop the spread of the deadly Coronavirus pandemic. Accordingly, the temple will be closed for devotees on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in the Ashada month, with the shutdown on Saturdays and Sundays already declared earlier. However, all the customary and traditional pujas and rituals associated with Ashada and Vardhanti will be performed by the priests," he said and added that the temple will be open for devotees on all other days, other than public holidays (7.30 am to 1 pm and 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm), with all devotees required to maintain social distancing and wearing of face mask.

Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said that although the Government highly respects the religious sentiments of the people, the district administration is hard-pressed to take this decision in the interest of public health and safety in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

Maintaining that the decision to ban darshan for devotees on Ashada Fridays and Chamundeshwari Vardhanti was taken after consulting the District Minister, MP, local Legislators and the Hill Temple management, he appealed the devotees to co-operate with the authorities in this regard.

Stressing on the need for strict following of lockdown regulations by devotees during darshan at the temple on other days, he cautioned that the district administration may be forced to shut down the temple again if rampant violations are found in the coming days. Referring to fresh COVID positive cases in the district, the DC said that he has issued a notification asking all members of the public to get themselves tested in case they suffer from cough, cold, fever or throat pain, which are symptoms of the deadly Coronavirus.

DC appeals people with COVID-19 symptoms to avail free test at designated Hospitals

Mysuru, June 16 (KS)- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar has urged the public to get themselves tested at the nearest Government or Private Hospitals if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are running nose, headache, throat pain, dry cough, fever and difficulty in breathing.

If cases of SARI and ILI are found in patients visiting Private Hospitals, Poly Clinics or Clinics, such patients should compulsorily get themselves tested for COVID-19 at COVID Hospital on KRS Road, K.R. Hospital and Cheluvamba Hospital in city, Taluk Hospitals at T. Narasipur, Nanjangud, H.D. Kote, Hunsur, K.R. Nagar and Periyapatna, Community Health Centres at Saligrama, Hullahalli and Tagadur free of cost.

Abhiram G. Sankar

Those who give their throat swab for testing are advised to rest at home till the lab result is known and there is no enforced quarantine policy for such cases. If the lab report turns positive, such person will be isolated for treatment.

Stating that this step by the Health Department is to ensure that all symptomatic persons are tested, the DC has requested the public to co-operate and make use of the service to get themselves tested as soon as COVID-19 symptoms are seen.

State for naming AIISH after JC Wadiyar & Mysore Airport after Nalwadi: MLA Ramdas

Mysuru, June 16 (YDS&DM)- MLA S.A. Ramdas said here that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has written to the Centre seeking to name the city's All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) after Sri Jayachamaraja (JC) Wadiyar and Mysore Airport after Rajarishi Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the 136th birth anniversary celebration of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar organised at Sri Krishna Gana Sabha in Gokulam 3rd Stage here on Saturday.

Pointing out that member of erstwhile Royal family Pramoda Devi Wadiyar had earlier written to the Centre appealing to name AIISH after JC Wadiyar and Mysore Airport in Mandakalli after Nalwadi, Ramdas said that the CM too has now written to the Centre seeking the same and it is hoped that this appeal will be honoured in a year.

Highlighting the role of Maharajas in Mysuru dotting the global map in many aspects, he said that it is a matter of pride that Mysureans have got an opportunity to celebrate the birth anniversaries of the two great erstwhile Mysuru rulers. Attributing the growth of the State to Nalwadi's vision, Ramdas said that Nalwadi's contribution to the fields of agriculture, education, science, literature etc., was unmatched.

Detailing Nalwadi's farsightedness, he said that the erstwhile ruler was responsible for the construction of KRS Dam, establishment of Mysore Bank (State Bank of Mysore) and University of Mysore and many such other establishments and institutions, which have earned global fame.

Earlier, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar inaugurated the programme by unveiling a portrait of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

The event was followed by a vocal music concert by well-known musician Vid. R.S. Nandakumar, who was the guest of honour. He was accompanied by Vidwans C.N. Thyagarajan on violin, G.S. Ramanujam on mridanga and V.S. Ramesh on ghata.

Sri Krishna Gana Sabha President B.S. Sridhar Raj Urs and others were present.

Mysuru region faces shortage of 3,007 teachers

Mysuru - 852, Mandya - 915, Hassan - 645, Kodagu - 215 and Chamarajanagar - 380

Mysuru, June 16 (SPN&DM)- Despite the Government's efforts to fill up teacher vacancies, the State is facing shortage of 31,238 teachers, with the five districts of Mysuru region — Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar — facing a shortage of 3,007 teachers in total, at Primary, Higher Primary and High School levels.

The Department of Public Instruction, Mysuru, said that the district is facing a shortage of 852 teachers. H.D. Kote taluk accounted for most of the vacancies recording 17 percent, Hunsur 9.12%, K.R. Nagar 9.85 percent, T. Narasipur 10.14 percent, Mysuru North 9.97 percent, Mysuru Rural 11.47 percent, Nanjangud 10.52%, Periyapatna 13.46 percent and Mysuru South 12.80 percent.

Mandya district has shortage of 915 teachers, while Hassan has 645, Kodagu 215 and Chamarajanagar 380, thus bringing the total number in Mysuru region to 3,007, including 852 in Mysuru district.

Serving teachers have been classified depending upon their place of work — Zone A (Urban Local Bodies), Zone B (Taluks) and Zone C (Rural Areas). As Zone C is facing severe shortage of teachers, those serving in Zone A are being sent to Zone C schools either on compulsory transfer or excess transfer, in order to offset the shortage.

DDPI Panduranga told 'Star of Mysore' that 33 percent of the Department staff were in attendance during the lockdown and pending files were cleared.

Pointing out that necessary action has been taken with regard to promotion of Primary and High School teachers, improvement of admissions in schools, repair and renovation of school buildings, preparation for SSLC exams and such other issues, he maintained that no taluk in Mysuru district is facing more than 20% shortage of teachers.

Committee recommends adoption of guidance system in educational institutions

Bengaluru, June 16- A Committee, headed by Bengaluru-based educationist Prof. M.R. Doreswamy, has recommended the Government to ask all educational institutions to adopt a guidance system.

The Government had constituted the Committee to advise it on educational reforms. The Committee has suggested the Government to come up with an action plan in this regard after thoroughly discussing the tactical and academic dimensions for adopting the system. The Committee came up with this unanimous resolution at a meeting held at Vikasa Soudha in the State capital recently.

At the meeting, Prof. Doreswamy said that National Educational Regulatory Bodies like AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education), UGC (University Grants Commission) and MCI (Medical Council of India) have already ordered educational institutions coming under their purview to adopt the guidance system. The State Government too should come forward for adopting this system, he observed.

Former VTU Vice-Chancellor Prof. H.P. Kincha suggested that technical institutions should include life skills and professional ethics in academic curriculum.

Bengaluru Central University Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Japhet said that it is vital to evolve an action plan that is different for professional courses institutions and conventional educational institutions.

Former Bangalore University VC Prof. K. Siddappa spoke about the guidance system that is already in place in some higher educational institutions.

University of Mysore VC Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar was also present at the meeting.

KSOU Alumni Association formed: Register online

Mysuru, June 16 (SD)- As an Alumni Association has been set up for former students of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), all the old students of KSOU including graduate and post-graduate degree holders who are serving in different departments of the State Government are requested to send their name, address, phone number, e-mail ID, current designation and date of joining to the post to: alumniksou@gmail.com, according to a press release from the KSOU Registrar.

Mandya Govt. College to get University status

Mandya, June 16 (Nagaiah & SD)- The Government College (Autonomous) of the city will be soon be upgraded and conferred the status of University, said Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan on June 12.

Speaking to press persons after inspecting the working of the Government College, he said: "In 2015, the State Government had conferred the status of University to Mandya Government College (Autonomous), but due to some technical issues, the process could not be completed. Now, as Cabinet has given its approval, Vice-Chancellor will be appointed to the University very soon."

"Contribution of Education Department officials, Elected Representatives, Deputy Commissioners, Lecturers and other staff members of the College is immense, as a result of which the College is getting University status. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa hails from Mandya district and he is always ready to take up development works in the district. In Mandya, a number of prominent persons including K.V. Shankaregowda have worked in the field of education sector and we need to work together to take it to a new level. Currently, over 4,000 students are studying in this college. Lecturers and other staff members should come forward to make this University a better place," he said.

Chairman of the College and MLA M. Srinivas, Education Department Officer Pradeep Prabhakar, Deputy Commissioner Dr. M.V. Venkatesh, ASP Shobharani, Special Officer of the University Prof. Ningegowda, College Principal Dr. Mahalingu and others were present during the Minister's visit.

CESC public contact programme tomorrow

Mysuru, June 16- Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has organised the Public Contact Programme for consumers of Ramakrishnanagar and Kuvempunagar Sub-Division limits on June 17 which will be chaired by the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer of V.V. Mohalla Division.

The public contact programme for consumers of Ramakrishnanagar Sub-Division limits will be held at 11 am at the Office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Office, Ramakrishnanagar Sub-Division.

For consumers of Kuvempunagar Sub-Division, the programme will be held at 3 pm at the Office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, Kuvempunagar Sub-Division.

VOICE OF THE READER

Plug overflowing manhole on Hunsur Road in Vijayanagar

Sir,

The manhole in front of Shell Petrol Bunk on Hunsur Road, Vijayanagar, is overflowing on the main road since a couple of months. The stench emanating is nauseating, apart from causing inconvenience to the motorists especially for two-wheelers.

When the two-wheeler riders suddenly see the overflowing sewage on the road, they swerve their vehicle causing a panic to both the two-wheelers and for the riders / drivers behind them.

Hope the authorities concerned will initiate action to plug the over-flowing manhole without any further delay.

— K. Chandrahas
Mysuru
14.6.2020

Street dogs menace on the rise

Sir,

The streets around Vijayanagar Water Tank and adjacent Railway Layout in Vijayanagar Second Stage is infested with street dogs that endanger the movements of pedestrians in the area. The dogs also enter the parks in the area and pose a potential threat to the park users.

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) authorities are requested to take suitable measures to control the stray dog menace.

— M.S. Sethumadhav
on e-mail
Vijayanagar Railway Layout
14.6.2020

MGP holds online meeting on MCC Property Tax

Rented properties which fell vacant during lockdown can avail tax exemption

Mysuru, June 16- The monthly meeting of Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) was held online yesterday. In all, 32 members attended the meeting where P. Babu, Assistant Revenue Officer, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), answered various questions on Property Tax.

According to him, the following procedures are to be adopted for payment of Property Tax under MCC limits:

1. A photocopy of the tax paid challan for the previous year with the name and contact number of the person is to be given to the respective Zonal Office of MCC.

2. MCC will compare the details of the property with the info provided by the owner. It will then prepare an SAS form and call the owner of the property within 7 days to cross verify the data. A PID number is also created for the property which should be quoted in future correspondence with MCC regarding the property.

3. After the SAS form is received, the owner can pay the tax in any of the following modes:

i. Pay tax in the MCC Office by cash/ cheque/ Debit card/ Credit card

ii. Payment can be made at KarnatakaOne Centres by cash/ cheque/ Debit card/ Credit card

iii. Online payment can also be made to MCC account as per details given in the challan.

The last date for paying property tax to avail 5% discount is 31.7.2020.

From next year, payment of tax can be made online with the help of the PID number given and there will be no requirement to visit the Office of MCC.

For houses constructed after 2009-10 and if the deviation from the sanctioned plan is more than 5%, CRs will not be issued for both residential and commercial properties. For properties constructed before that period, if the CR is given by the owner but not approved by MCC, such owners may contact the respective Revenue Inspectors or other higher officers and obtain CR.

Where only a part of the house has CR, that part of the house will be taxed at normal rate and the portion without CR will be charged at double the rates.

Regarding property tax for vacant sites, the rates per sq. ft. are:

Up to 600 sq. ft. - 0.50 ps
600 to 1200 sq. ft. - Re. 1
Above 1200 sq. ft. - Rs. 2

If there are any discrepancies in the data maintained by MCC, the same can be rectified by meeting the concerned Ward Engineers / Development Officers / Zonal Commissioners.

Since 2006, Depreciations are not allowed for any property.

For properties rented out which fell vacant during lockdown, tax exemptions can be availed by meeting the concerned MCC Zonal Commissioners, according to a press release from the MGP Secretary.

Herbal masks distributed to Home Guards

Mysuru, June 16 (RK&BNR)- Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Club distributed 300 masks (two each) to Home Guards at a programme held at the SP Office auditorium here this morning in the presence of ASP P.V. Sneha.

Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Club Chairperson Shubha Sanjay and office-bearers Vijaya Rao, Divyashree Sanjay, Rishik Jain and Icir Urs were present.

The herbal mixed reusable mask is made of 2,000 metres khadi bought from Gujarat for the purpose. A total of 8,000 such masks have already been distributed among jail inmates, jail staff and farmers in rural areas, migrants, visually impaired students and others.

Obituary

Dr. Haseem Baig

Mysuru, June 16- Dr. Haseem Baig (80), retired Assistant Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, passed away on Sunday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, five children and a host of relatives and friends. Burial took place at Dhanagur in Mysuru taluk on Sunday evening.

Chandrahasa

Chandrahasa (58), proprietor of Hotel Venulola and a resident of Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, passed away yesterday in city following a heart attack. He leaves behind his wife, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam this noon.

Monthly KDP meeting tomorrow

Mysuru, June 16- The progress review meeting of Karnataka Development Programme (including 20-point programme) of Mysuru district to the end of March, 2020 will be held tomorrow (June 17) at 10.30 am.

The Zilla Panchayat (ZP) President will preside over the meeting to be held at Chamundeshwari auditorium of the Regional Commissioner's Office in city.

Corona Warriors feted at their Offices

Mysuru, June 16 (MTY)- Senior Officers of various Departments, which have been working in the forefront in the fight against the Corona pandemic, were felicitated by various Associations and Organisations.

Mysuru's Sai Foundation, Keerthi Mahila Abhivruddhi Samsthe, Vishwamata Seva Samsthe and Roshini Foundation office-bearers visited the offices of Corona Warriors and feted them expressing gratitude on behalf of the citizens.

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) CEO Prashanth Kumar Mishra, Superintendent of Police (SP) C.B. Ryshyanth, District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. R. Venkatesh, ASP P.V. Sneha, Labour Department Assistant Commissioner A.C. Thammanna, Labour Officer Manjuladevi, Tahsildar Rakshith and MCC Health Officer Dr. Jayanth were feted at their respective offices.

As social distancing was the need of the hour to fight against COVID-19, the officers denied to meet at a single place and hence, Keerthi Mahila Abhivruddhi Samsthe President Manjula Ramesh, Vishwamata Seva Samsthe's Manjula, Sai Foundation Head Sai Kiran Reddy, Roshini Foundation Head Sajifa M. Khan and others honoured the Corona Warriors.

Discount sale of books by UoM Prasaranga

Mysuru, June 16- Prasaranga, the publishing, printing and selling arm of University of Mysore (UoM), is selling its publications at 50 percent discount and Encyclopaedia and Dictionaries at 25 percent discount from June 15 to July 31.

Also, 'Epigraphia Carnatica' edition brought out by Kuvempu Institute of Kannada Studies (KIKS) will be on sale at 50 percent discount. Interested may visit Prasaranga selling division on Hunsur Road and at Ramaswamy Circle, according to Prasaranga Assistant Director B.S. Anil Kumar.

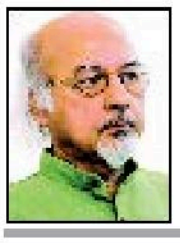
Senior Citizens ID Card

Mysuru, June 16- The Senior Citizens Sakaala Seva Kendra has invited applications from senior citizens aged over 60 years for issuing ID cards.

Senior citizens residing across the district can collect the application form till July 15 (10 am to 5.30 pm) from the Seva Kendra. The filled-in forms must be submitted along with two passport size photographs along with a photocopy of birth certificate, DL, Aadhaar Card or ID card.

For details, contact Ph: 0821-4191266 or Mob: 91416-14633, according to a press release.

Indira: The Evil and The Good



Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

I spent an hour with Indira Gandhi last week. She was at her photogenic best, looking confident, well-groomed, attractive. She kept a camera-conscious smile all the time, though there were moments when uncomfortable questions were thrown at her and she had to make an effort to look composed. It was a 1978 television interview with the BBC's Jonathan Dimbleby — a year after the infamous Emergency during which she and her son Sanjay Gandhi brought India under their dictatorship.

It was clear that Indira agreed to the interview because of the magical aura of the Dimbleby name. The present generation may be unaware of what that surname meant. During the Indira years, the BBC had more influence in India than it has today and no BBC name was more awe-inspiring than Dimbleby. For three generations that name had dominated the glamour associated with the BBC. Richard Dimbleby, who ran a programme called 'Panorama' had the popularity of a film star and the status of a political messiah. He pioneered the television interview style that combined politeness with toughness. His sons David Dimbleby and Jonathan Dimbleby continued that tradition with great competence. David's son Henry Dimbleby took it to the next generation. A remarkable family record.

The Indira interview by Jonathan Dimbleby was notable for the thoroughness of the homework he had done and for the manner in which Indira defended herself. He brought out the ruthlessness of her two-year Emergency, from imprisonment of political opponents to the scandalous sterilisation programme supervised by Sanjay Gandhi. Young and old were lined up to be surgically rendered incapable of reproduction. It was Sanjay Gandhi's idea of solving India's population problem.

In the Dimbleby interview, Indira justified everything she did. There wasn't even a hint that perhaps this or that could have been done in a different way. The premise on which things were justified was, as she explained, opponents were committed to the policy of "if we cannot win by the ballet, we shall win by the bullet." If she had not taken a firm stand against such desperate opponents, she said, "India would not have survived."

That is the kind of self-serving justification all autocrats find for their abuse of democracy. It is a pity that a shrewed political tactician like Indira did not understand that people's feelings were hurt by her Emergency rule. In the 1977 election that followed the Emergency, the Congress party lost control of India for the first time since independence. It is a different matter that the hastily concocted Janata Party alliance fell by the wayside with Morarji Desai's eccentricities and Chandrasekhar's personal ambitions turning the whole thing into a circus.

Indira did have a strong democratic instinct within her. May be the Nehru family tradition had something to do with it although it is fashionable these days to dismiss Nehru as an inconsequential figure. It must be that inherited instinct that led her to announce a general election when she could have just as well continued with the convenient Emergency. Clearly she wanted the stamp of popular approval for her rule. It must have been a surprise to her that people declined to act as rubberstamps.

Perhaps the best example of Indira taking the public for granted was her claim that pre-censorship was abandoned because the press began self-censorship. It was an enforced self-censorship. No report on Tihar Jail was permitted. Can we imagine the press doing it on its own? Film star Nargis was arrested in London on a shoplifting charge. Reports on this were ordered to be blacked out. Indira saw nothing wrong in such things. She sincerely believed that she never lost the support of the people. As she saw it, people were simply misled by her opponents. The real tragedy was not her losing popularity, but her conviction that no popularity loss occurred. Coomi Kapoor's "The Emergency: A Personal History" provides quite a few revealing sidelights.

May be it was her insecurity that spoiled what could have been a life of triumph. And the contradictions in her. She would dote on her spoiled son Sanjay — and turn violently angry against Sanjay's wife Maneka, throwing her luggage out of the house in full view of the world. She loved sycophants including those who shouted the disgraceful slogan "India is Indira." The stuff of greatness was in her, but so was the pull of smallness. The smallness could not even be camouflaged. In Shakespearian terms, the evil she did lived after her, the good was interred with her bones.

Big fat wedding on cards

D.K. Shivakumar's daughter to marry son of Cafe Coffee Day Founder late V.G. Siddhartha

Bengaluru, June 16- Former Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President D.K. Shivakumar's daughter Aishwarya is all set to marry Amartya Hegde, son of Cafe Coffee Day Founder late V.G. Siddhartha later this year. The marriage alliance was proposed before the untimely demise of Siddhartha and was kept on hold until now, according to sources.

On Monday, members of Amartya Hegde's family, including his mother Malavika Siddhartha, maternal grandfather and former External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna and his wife, visited Shivakumar's residence in Sadashivanagar to complete the formalities of "gatti maatu" (loosely translated as 'confirming a marriage').

As per traditions followed at Hegde's home, there can be no auspicious events for a year after the death of someone in the family. Siddhartha, the Founder of CCD, had committed suicide in July 2019. Thus, the engagement will be held in August and the marriage is likely to be in December.

Aishwarya, an engineering graduate, is the eldest daughter of Shivakumar and Usha. This is the third grand marital alliance across political parties.

Earlier, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil got married to Revathi, the grand niece of former Minister and Congress MLA M. Krishnappa.

A few months back, Rithika Mohan, daughter of BJP Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha Member P.C. Mohan, got engaged to BBMP Corporator Yuvaraj, son of former Congress MLA R.V. Devraj.

City athlete Thippavva Sannakki weds

Thippavva Sannakki (Pavithra), a well-known athlete and an employee of South Western Railways (SWR), Mysuru, got married to Shrishail Kavali, a Nursing Staff at Kidwai Cancer Hospital, Bengaluru, at a ceremony held at the groom's residence in Bagalkot on June 14. Thippavva is the daughter of Sidramappa Sannakki and Rudravva Sannakki of Bilagi taluk in Bagalkot while Shrishail is the son of Mallappa Kavali and Annapurna Kavali of Bevur taluk in Bagalkot.

PU Department all set for June 18 English exam

All safety measures in place, says Mysuru DDPUE Geetha

Bengaluru / Mysuru, June 16- With just two days to go for the pending II PUC English paper exam (June 18), the Department of Pre-University Education has asked District-level officials to put all the safety measures in place as per the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) issued by the Health Department.

The English exam, which was initially scheduled to take place on Mar.23, was abruptly postponed due to COVID-19 scare. Now, the exam is scheduled to take place on June 18, nearly three months after the postponement.

As a beginning of the preparations, the Department has vacated all the Colleges that were used as COVID-19 Quarantine Centres. After getting the buildings vacated, the Department has been sanitising them daily twice since Sunday evening.

Each examination centre will have a Pharmacist and an ASHA worker to assist the students in case of medical emergency. Before entering the Examination Hall, every student will have to undergo thermal screening, get their hands sanitised and compulsorily wear face masks. Also, in order to maintain social distancing, additional class rooms are being used.

Students and the invigilation staff will be subjected to medical checkup before entering the exam hall and those with symptoms like cough, cold or fever are required to write the exam in a separate room.

Over 5.95 lakh students will be appearing for the exam in 1,016 centres across the State, including 430 in District Headquarters, 328 in Taluk centres and 258 in Hobli centres.

Meanwhile, the Department has also issued directions for safe transportation of answer scripts after the exam. As per the directions, the answer scripts must be directly transported to the respective Deputy Director's Office or the evaluation centre the same day. All the in-charge officials at the centre are not allowed to use two-wheelers for transporting answer scripts and must take the assistance of Police for safe and secure transportation of answer scripts to respective centres.

Mysuru DDPUE H.R. Geetha speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, said that there are 50 centres in the district, out of which 26 are in Mysuru city alone.

Pointing out that 31,569 students are appearing for the exam in the District, she said that while 504 students who left the city to their native places in the State following the lockdown have opted for centres nearest to their place of stay, 436 students from other districts have registered to appear in Mysuru District, for whom 22 additional exam halls have been identified.

Stating that all measures in accordance with the Department directives are in place, the DDPUE said that all the gates in every centre will be opened and each student is required to compulsorily undergo thermal screening before checking into the exam hall.

The English exam will take place between 10.15 am and 1.30 pm on June 18 under tight Police security and lockdown measures, she added.

Planting of 1 lakh saplings at Chamundi Hill to begin in a week: Forest Minister

Non-eco-friendly Eucalyptus trees to be replaced with fruit-bearing saplings

Mysuru, June 16 (PM&DM)- Forest Minister Anand Singh said that the initiative of planting one lakh saplings in the forests of Chamundi Hill as part of World Environment Day (June 5) will commence in a week.

Speaking to press persons atop Chamundi Hill this morning after holding a meeting to discuss the schedule for planting of saplings, in which District Minister S.T. Somashekar too took part, Anand Singh said that the meeting decided to fell down non-eco-friendly Eucalyptus trees grown in 310 hectares in Chamundi Hill and plant fruit saplings of different varieties in this area, which not only spreads the green cover but also is beneficial to the society.

Stating that he has directed the officials to symbolically launch the initiative by planting a few saplings, he said that the officials must ensure that the digging of pits for planting is taken up only under NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme).

Replying to a question on the Department's plans for containing wild elephant menace, Anand Singh said that the Department has speeded up construction of Rail fencing along the forest borders covering a total distance of more than 500 kms in different parts of the State.

Pointing out that the fencing project is being taken up with financial support from the Centre, he maintained that the State Forest Department has no dearth of funds for digging up trenches and erection of Rail fencings, to check the straying of elephants into agricultural fields and human habitats.

Earlier, Ministers S.T. Somashekar and Anand Singh together visited Chamundeshwari temple and offered prayers to the deity.

MP Pratap Simha, MLAs S.A. Ramdas, G.T. Devegowda and L. Nagendra, City BJP President Srivatsa, District President S.D. Mahendra, ZP CEO Prashanth Kumar Mishra, DCF Dr. K.C. Prashanth Kumar, DCP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda, Muzrai Tahsildar and Chamundeshari Temple Executive Officer Yathiraj Sampathkumaran, the Temple Chief Priest Dr. Shashishekar Dikshit and others were present.

Three killed

as vehicle carrying marriage party topples near Hanur

Hanur, June 16 (Somashekar&KS)- Three persons were killed and 10 injured when a Bolero Pickup vehicle carrying a marriage party toppled near Odeyarapalya close to Koramanakathari J Village yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Nanjundaiah (60), Chikkasiddamma (55) and Nagaraju (60), all residents of Hunasepalya village in the taluk. Among the 10 persons who are injured, Ningarajamma and Chandra are said to be critical.

The marriage between Anitha of Hunasepalya and Mariswamy of Madhuvinahalli village in Kollegal taluk was being held yesterday and more than 20 people from Hunasepalya had attended the marriage. After the ceremony concluded, the invitees boarded the Bolero Pickup vehicle and were proceeding towards Hunasepalya, when the driver lost control of the vehicle.

Hanur Circle Inspector Ravi Nayak and staff, who rushed to the spot shifted the injured to hospitals at Odeyarapalya and PG Palya. The seriously injured Ningarajamma and Chandra were provided first-aid and were shifted in an ambulance to a hospital in Mysuru.

MLA R. Narendra, DySP Naveen Kumar and others visited the spot. Chamarajanagar District BJP Vice-President Dattesh Kumar provided Rs. 5,000 financial aid to the families of the deceased.

Mandya drowning incident

CM instructs officials to provide

compensation of Rs. 22 lakh to 7 families

Bengaluru, June 16 (KS)- Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has instructed the officials concerned to provide a total compensation of Rs. 22 lakh to the families of seven persons, who were drowned in separate incidents in Mandya district on Sunday.

The CM has instructed the authorities concerned to pay Rs. 5 lakh each to the family of deceased Geetha, Savitha and Sowmya of Beeranahalli in Nagamangala taluk and Rs. 2 lakh each to the families of deceased Rashmi and Inchara of Cholasandra village in Nagamangala taluk and to the families of deceased Abhishek of Huli Ganganahalli and Kumar of Adihalli.

Rumours spark mad rush at Taluk Office

Mysuru, June 16- Following rumours spread by some miscreants that yesterday was the last day to submit applications to avail Rs.2,000 financial aid given in the wake of Coronavirus pandemic, residents of Mandi Mohalla and N.R. Mohalla flocked to Taluk Office in large numbers since early morning.

Within a short span of time, their numbers swelled to about 500 and there was a mad rush near the counters. Staff members of Taluk Office struggled to control this crowd and had trouble convincing them that this was just a rumour. As the crowd did not heed to their advice that yesterday was not the last day for submission of applications, Tahsildar Rakshit took the help of Police to bring the situation under control.

Speaking to 'Star of Mysore,' the Tahsildar said: "For those pensioners whose documents had to be updated, Revenue Department staff have visited their residences and updated their documents during the lockdown period. Very soon, subsidy amount will be transferred to their bank accounts. But still, whenever any beneficiary comes to Taluk Office with queries, we are scrutinising their documents and update them about their status. As Kaveri Grameena Bank has been merged with other bank, as a result of which IFSC code has changed, pension amount for over 6,000 beneficiaries who had accounts in those banks has been held up. This issue has been solved now and their pension amount will be transferred to their bank accounts in the coming months."

"Nearly 500 beneficiaries flocked to Taluk Office yesterday, which was an unexpected situation for us and we had to take the help of Police. We have only two Computer Operators working here now and so there are only two counters operating in our office. We are planning to open seven more counters from Wednesday. Pensioners need not worry as their pension will be transferred to their account soon. I advise them not to panic or pay heed to such rumours," he said.

Former MP condemns amendment to Land Reforms Act and hike in fuel prices

Mysuru, June 16 (MTY&KS)- "The amendment to the Land Reforms Act will bring down the production of food grains drastically," said former MP R. Dhruvanarayan.

Addressing a press meet at Jaladarshini Guest House on Hunsur Road here yesterday, he said that the amendments to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961, would break the backbone of the country, the farmers, as anyone would be eligible to buy agricultural land and utilise the land for various purposes other than agriculture.

Stating that Section 79A of the Act states that annual income of the buyer of agricultural land should not exceed Rs. 25 lakh and Section B states that only a farmer could buy the agricultural land for agriculture purpose, the former MP said that the Act was implemented on Mar. 1, 1974 to prevent scarcity of food.

Pointing out that there is no scarcity of food now as the previous Governments had given to agriculture, he said that there were 70% small farmers in the country and because of their efforts there was a record production of 291 million tonnes of food grains in 2019-20, which the country could sustain for two years.

"If the amended Act is implemented, anyone could buy agricultural land and utilise it for various activities including construction of factories. This would reduce food production," he said.

Continuing, R. Dhruvanarayan, who also condemned the hike in fuel prices, said that the fuel prices had increased by Rs. 4 per litre recently, which would inconvenience farmers, middle class and the poor.

Stating that the Centre was purchasing petrol at Rs. 18.25 per litre and Rs. 18.75 for diesel, the former MP said that the Indians were paying the highest taxes for fuel than any others in the world.

City Congress President R. Murthy, MLAs Anil Chikkamadu and H.P. Manjunath, City Congress Spokesperson H.A. Venkatesh and others were present.

Online International Conference on 'Recent Trends in Science and Technology' on June 17 and 18

Mysuru, June 16- ATME College of Engineering (ATMECE), Mysuru, has organised two-day International Conference on 'Recent Trends in Science and Technology' on June 17 and 18. The Conference will be conducted through online due to the COVID-19 threat. The presentation of articles on the days of Conference is streamed live and will be witnessed by all presenters and invitees globally.

The Conference will be inaugurated on June 17 in the presence of chief guest Dr. Karisiddappa, Vice-Chancellor, VTU, Belagavi and guests of honour will be Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore, Dr. K. Chidananda Gowda, former Vice-Chancellor, Kuvempu University and Dr. Syed Shakeeb Ur Rahman, Executive Council Member, VTU, Belagavi.

The programme will be presided over by L. Arun Kumar, Chairman, ATMECE. K. Shiva Shankar, Secretary, ATMECE and Veeresh, Treasurer, ATMECE, will also be present.

The keynote speakers for the Conference are Dr. Gopalan Jagdeesh, Professor, Department of Aero Space Engineering, IISc, Bengaluru and Dr. Md. Sultan Mohamed Ali, Professor, Control & Mechatronics Engineering Division, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor, Malaysia.

The valedictory will be held on June 18 with K. Achutha Bachalli, Chairman, Unilog and Infopine Solutions, as chief guest.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, around 50 members including guests, organisers and staff members are attending on-campus to take part in this function.

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